

Kinship Care: Permanency and Placement

About Kinship Care

The following resources provide basic information about kinship care, including definitions; discuss the benefits of kinship care for children and families; present information on the needs of and challenges faced by kinship caregivers; and describe the prevalence of kinship care in the United States.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/kinship/about/>

CDHS Memo: Wavers of Non-Safety Certification Standards

This memo addresses the process for/use of non-safety certification standards for the placement of children in kinship foster homes. This may be helpful for GALs arguing for or against such waivers.

Colorado Department of Human Services (October 2018)

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/cd781c9bc8f90270567729e9e/files/e4f15f9a-1792-47ce-86e9-23f7cfab52db/OM_CW_2018_0022.01.pdf

Colorado Kinship Navigation Guide

Navigating Kinship Care: A Resource Guide for Kinship Families in Colorado provides local and statewide information about organizations and programs that may be useful for kinship caregivers. The guide provides information about public benefits, legal options and processes, access to education, medical, dental and mental health services, childcare, and information about who to call or where to locate help.

Kinship Connection, Colorado Department of Human Services

https://drive.google.com/file/d/16nmBylv5VyPtf_NRKNiAy71nTpmixetC/view

GrandFamilies.org

Grandfamilies.org provides free access to a wide variety of resources that support grandfamilies; educate individuals about State kinship laws; and assist legislators, caregivers, attorneys, and policymakers about kinship support options, including a guide on raising children with disabilities. <http://grandfamilies.org/>

See More on Kinship Research: Research shows that children experience better outcomes with kin across three major domains: improved placement stability, higher levels of permanency, and decreased behavior problems. <https://grandfamilies.org/research>

Impact of Kinship Care on Permanency Outcomes

These resources address practices and programs that promote stability and positive permanency outcomes for children in kinship care.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/permanency/relatives/impact/>

Kinship Care is Better for Children and Families

The idea of family members assisting and supporting each other is not new. This is a traditional practice in most cultures. The foster care system is starting to incorporate kinship care as a permanency option for children. Efforts are underway to remove barriers to kinship placements, including removing bureaucratic processes and streamlining legal proceedings to allow relatives to safely care for children and maintain important family connections. Efforts are also beginning to examine foster care licensing requirements, supports, and services for kin, and approaches to complex family dynamics that affect kin and their ability to care for children.

American Bar Association (2017)

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/child_law/resources/child_law_practiceonline/child_law_practice/vol-36/july-aug-2017/kinship-care-is-better-for-children-and-families/

Placement of Children with Relatives

This publication presents an overview of State laws that give priority or preference to relatives when children are in need of out-of-home care. The issues addressed include locating relatives, determining the fitness of a relative to provide care, and requirements for licensure. Requirements for placing siblings together whenever possible and adoption by relatives also are addressed. Summaries of laws for all 50 States are included.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2018). *Placement of children with relatives*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/laws-policies/statutes/placement/>

Promoting Placement Stability

This publication addresses this need by presenting a variety of research findings and perspectives looking at promoting placement stability for children and youth in out-of-home care. This publication provides an overview of placement stability issues, practice notes, evidence-based research and programs, and perspectives from various stakeholders.

Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare (2010)

https://www.cascw.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/CW360_2010.pdf

A Qualitative Research Study of Kinship Diversion Practices

This brief explores the practice of “kinship diversion,” in which children are placed with relatives as an alternative to foster care. Also referred to as informal or voluntary kinship care or safety plans, its use varies across the country. In this brief we present findings from an in depth review of kinship diversion in one state. Interviews and focus groups revealed common themes among agency caseworkers, kinship caregivers, and court personnel around the reasons for using kinship diversion, the continued support needed for kinship caregivers, and the varied factors that influence kinship diversion practices.

Child Trends

<https://www.childtrends.org/publications/a-qualitative-research-study-of-kinship-diversion-practices-2-2>

Working with Kinship Caregivers

This bulletin was written to help child welfare professionals promote kinship care by providing information, referral, support services, and assistance programs to kinship caregivers to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in their care.

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2018). *Working with kinship caregivers*.

Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/kinship.pdf>